Education of Migrants

August 2009

Government of Alberta ■
Employment and Immigration

Introduction

Alberta Employment and Immigration (E&I) actively supports the integration of migrants through programs aimed at language development, employment training, and attracting people to the province. This report looks at the education of migrants by gender, age, and province of origin. The purpose is to provide E&I with information regarding education levels of migrants to Alberta to aid in developing strategies towards integrating migrants.

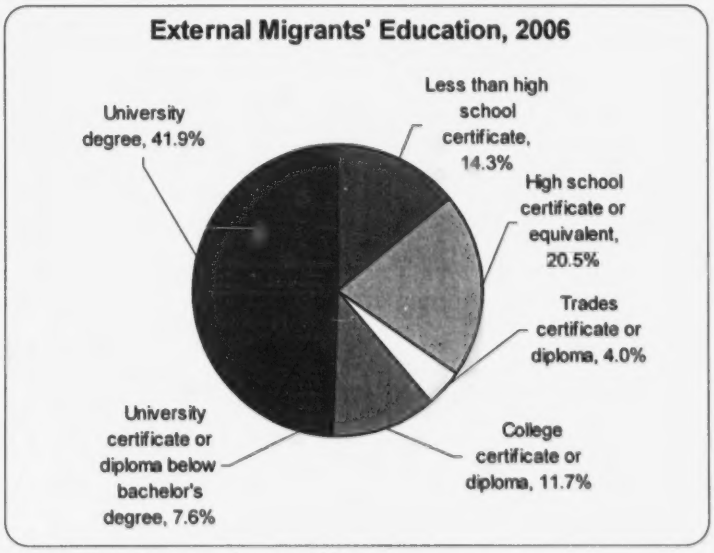
The data analyzed in this report come from two Statistics Canada sources: the 2006 Census and the Longitudinal Administrative Database (LAD). Important considerations relating to these data sources are described in Appendix A. Further analysis is presented in Appendix B.

Migrants' Education

Migrants to Alberta had higher levels of education than non-movers. In 2006, 41.9% of external migrants[1] who moved to Alberta over the previous year had a university degree (Chart 1). In comparison, 22.1% of interprovincial migrants[2] (Chart 2 on the next page) and 16.9% of non-movers[3] had the same level of education (Appendix B). However, non-movers had the highest proportions with a trades certificate or diploma and college certificate or diploma.

Interprovincial migrants to Alberta had a higher percentage with college certificates or diplomas at 17.0% compared to 11.7% for external migrants. Also, there were more interprovincial than external migrants with trades certificates or diplomas (10.8% compared to 4.0%). A large proportion of both interprovincial and external migrants had at least some post-secondary education[4], with 53.3% and 65.2% respectively. Among non-movers, 49.9% had the same level of education. Appendix B, Chart 2 provides a breakdown of education for interprovincial migrants originally from another country according to the LAD data.

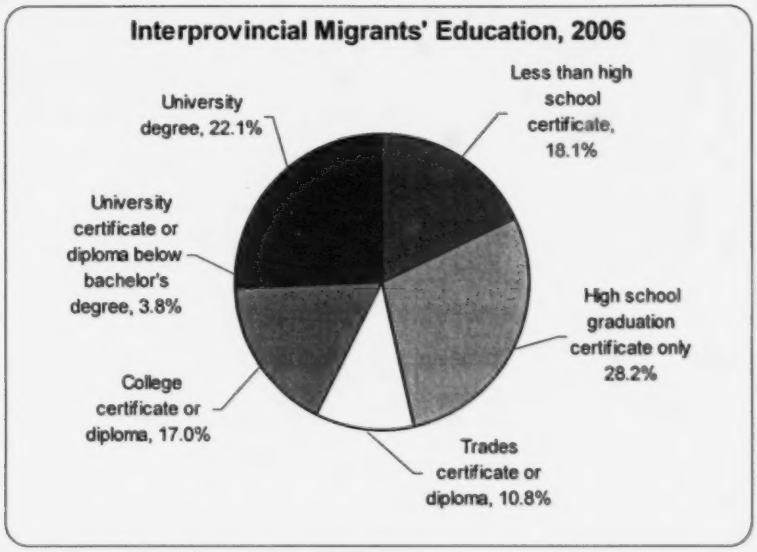
Chart 1


External Migrants' Education, 2006
University degree, 41.9%
Less than high school certificate, 14.3%
High school certificate or equivalent, 20.5%
Trades certificate or diploma, 4.0%
College certificate or diploma, 11.7%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor's degree, 7.6%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

[1] Migrants who came from another country to live in Alberta
[2] Those moving to Alberta from another province
[3] Refers to people who didn't move or who moved within the same city or town
[4] Some post-secondary education includes all education categories except for a high school certificate and less than high school education

Chart 2


Interprovincial Migrants' Education, 2006
Less than high school certificate, 18.1%
University degree, 22.1%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor's degree, 3.8%
High school graduation certificate only 28.2%
College certificate or diploma, 17.0%
Trades certificate or diploma, 10.8%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

While more external immigrants to Alberta had a university degree than non-movers or interprovincial immigrants, they also had the highest unemployment rate compared to non-movers or interprovincial migrants with similar education. In 2006, external and interprovincial migrants with a university degree who moved to Alberta over the previous year had unemployment rate of 10.4% and 7.3% respectively. The rate for non-movers was 2.8%. A 2008 publication by the Parliamentary Information and Research Service revealed that, at the national level, the unemployment rate in Canada for very recent landed immigrants[5] with a university degree was 10.7%, compared to 2.4% for Canadian-born workers[6].

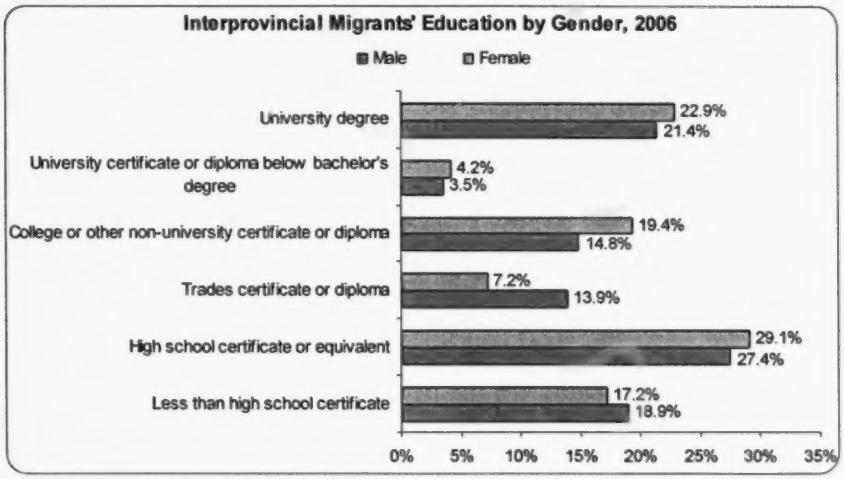
Education by Gender

Both external and interprovincial male migrants had higher proportions with trades certificates than their female counterparts (Charts 3 and 4 on the next page). Chart 3 shows that female interprovincial migrants had higher proportions than males in all education categories except in trades certificates or less than high school education. Meanwhile, female external migrants had larger proportions than their male counterparts in all education categories except in university degrees and trade certificates. The

[5] Those who landed in Canada 5 or less years prior to 2006
[6] http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/library/PRBpubs/prb0429-e.htm

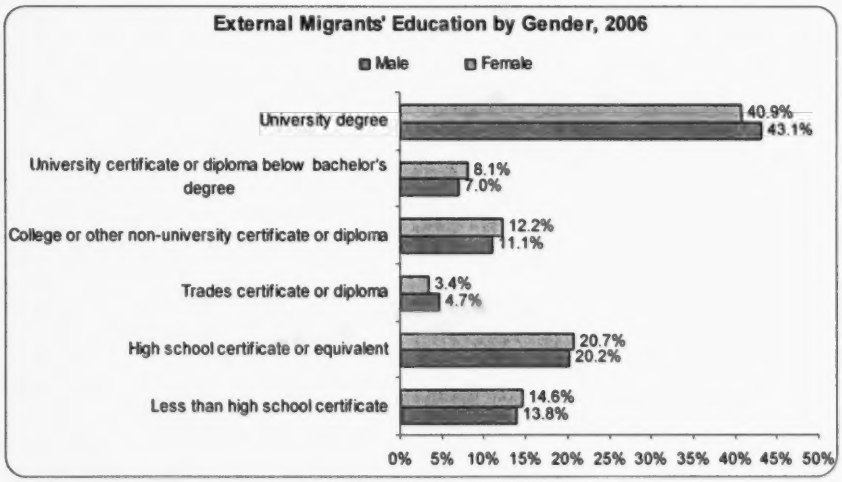
education by gender for interprovincial migrants originally from another country according to the LAD data is available in Appendix B chart 2.

Chart 3



Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Chart 4



Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Education by Age

Table 1, on the next page, displays the education levels of both external and interprovincial migrants by age. While a larger proportion of external migrants aged 45 to 49 and 55 to 59 had a university degree, the majority of interprovincial migrants in the same age groups held a high school certificate. Also, the largest proportion of

interprovincial migrants aged 25 to 44 and 50 to 54 held a university degree, whereas most external migrants aged 25 to 59 held a university degree. At the national level, 36% of external migrants aged 25 to 54 had a university education compared to 22% of native-born Canadians[6]. The largest proportion of interprovincial migrants aged 65 and older and external migrants aged 60 and older had less than a high school education. The full breakdown of educational attainment for each age group is shown Table 1 in Appendix B.

Table 1

Education with Largest Proportions by Age Group, 2006												
		Age Group										
		15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65+
Education Level	Interprovincial Migrants	Less than high school	High school certificate	University degree	University degree	University degree	University degree	High school certificate	University degree	High school certificate	High school certificate	Less than high school
	External Migrants	Less than high school	High school certificate	University degree	University degree	University degree	University degree	University degree	University degree	University degree	Less than high school	Less than high school

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Education by Province of Origin

Interprovincial and external migrants' education by province of origin is shown in Table 2 on the next page. With the exception of migrants coming from Prince Edward Island (PEI), Quebec, Ontario and the Territories[7], the majority of interprovincial migrants from each province had a high school certificate. The highest proportions of migrants from Quebec and Ontario held a university degree, with Ontario leading at 31.5%. The largest proportion of interprovincial migrants from PEI and the Territories held a college certificate, with PEI leading at 33.3%. Migrants from Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) had the largest proportion of trades certificate or diploma and less than high school education, at 14.0% and 23.1% respectively. They also had lowest proportion with a university degree at 10.2%. Migrants from Quebec had the largest proportion with some post-secondary education or higher[8] at 64.7% and migrants from NL had the smallest proportion at 47.1%. Appendix B, Table 2 provides a complete breakdown by education for the provinces.

[6] http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/library/PRBpubs/prb0429-e.htm
[7] Territories include; Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories
[8] Includes all levels of education except less than high school and only high school

Table 2

Proportion of Interprovincial Migrants by Education, 2006			
		High	Low
Level of Education	Less than high school	NL, 23.1%	QC, 15.0%
	High school certificate only	NB, 32.4%	QC, 21.1%
	Trade certificate or diploma	NL, 14.0%	ON, 8.1%
	College certificate	PEI, 33.3%	MB, 15.4%
	University certificate below a degree	QC, 6.6%	YK/NWT, 1.8%
	University degree	ON, 31.5%	NL, 10.2%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Note: Abbreviations in Table 2

NL = Newfoundland and Labrador
NS = Nova Scotia
QC = Quebec
MB = Manitoba
BC = British Columbia
YK/NWT = Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut
PEI = Prince Edward Island
NB = New Brunswick
ON = Ontario
SK = Saskatchewan

Occupation and Retention by Education

Interprovincial migrants who stayed in Alberta for at least one full year, with a doctorate (Ph.D) had the lowest retention rates[9] of all educational attainment levels. The proportion of external migrants working in occupations requiring higher levels of education decreased compared to those in their home country. The fall in proportions of external migrants in these occupations may have been due to a lack of Canadian job experience, language problems or lack of acceptance of foreign credentials. Meanwhile, there was an increase in the proportions for occupations that didn't require higher education levels. Appendix B, Charts 4 and 5 provide the retention rates and occupations of migrants.

[9] The percentage of migrants coming to Alberta who stay over a given period of time

Summary and Conclusion

The proportion of external migrants that came to Alberta with a university degree was almost double that of interprovincial migrants. Also, both interprovincial and external migrants had a higher proportion with a university degree than non-movers. However, non-movers had a larger proportion of individuals with a trades certificate than both the external and interprovincial migrants.

Among interprovincial migrants, females had the highest proportion in all education categories with the exception of trades certificate and less than high school certificate. Meanwhile, female external migrants had larger proportions in all education categories except for university degrees and trades certificate. For older age groups, external migrants aged 55 to 59 had higher overall levels of education than interprovincial migrants of the same age. Interprovincial migrants aged 60 to 64 had higher education levels than external migrants. Migrants from Ontario had the largest proportion with a university degree, while those from Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest.

In 2006, migrants who moved to Alberta over the previous year with a Doctorate had the lowest retention rates. This could have been due to the migrants being less likely to gain employment in occupations requiring high levels of education after arriving in Alberta.

Appendix A: Data Considerations

The 2006 Census

The Census data presented in this report are taken from the One Year Mobility Status variable, which indicates whether the person lived in the same residence on Census Day as he or she did one year before. Thus, they could have moved to Alberta at any time during that past year. This gives two main categories of people, 'movers' and 'non-movers'. Within the movers category there are a number of subcategories:

1. Non-migrants: People who moved within the same city or town
2. Internal migrants: People who moved to a different city or town in Canada
    a) Intraprovincial migrants - Those moving within Alberta
    b) Interprovincial migrants - Those moving to Alberta from another province
3. External migrants: People who came from another country to live in Alberta

When referring to non-movers in this report it includes both the Census non-movers and non-migrants.

The source provinces for interprovincial migrants, refers to the province they lived in one year before Census Day. Therefore, it is possible that a portion of migrants lived in one province one year prior, moved to another province, and then came to Alberta.

Longitudinal Administrative Database

The Longitudinal Administrative Database (LAD) is a custom tabulation done for Alberta Employment and Immigration (E&I) by Statistics Canada. The data is a 20% sample taken from filed tax returns. This tabulation contains data for the years 1995 through 2006. The LAD data contain data for migrants under the age of 15, representing only 0.1% of migrants accounted for. However, because the Census only has data for those over the age of 15, migrants under the age of 15 will be omitted from the analysis.

The interprovincial migrants included in the LAD data analysis are from another part of Canada but were born in another country. However, because of the nature of the sample, there is a small number of migrants included that either came from outside the country to Alberta or did not specify where they moved from. Since this number is so small compared to the total number of migrants the analysis should not be affected by these migrants. Therefore, the group is still referred to those who came to Alberta as interprovincial migrants and a note is included to indicate that there may be a small number from another country.

Also, throughout this report, the analysis done on the LAD data will indicate that it is for interprovincial migrants originally from another country. Therefore, caution should be used when comparing these with interprovincial migrants from the Census, since it means that none of these migrants were born in Canada.

Other Notes

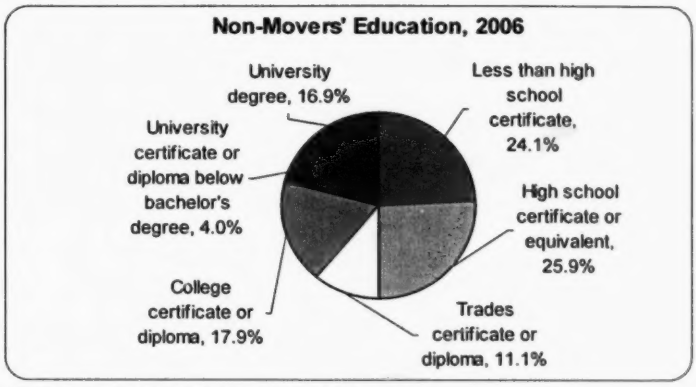
Statistics Canada suppresses small data values to protect the confidentiality of survey respondents and, in some instances, suppresses other small values to ensure that the originally suppressed value is indeterminable from the remaining data.

The following provincial abbreviations are used:

NL = Newfoundland and Labrador
NS = Nova Scotia
QC = Quebec
PEI = Prince Edward Island
NB = New Brunswick
ON = Ontario

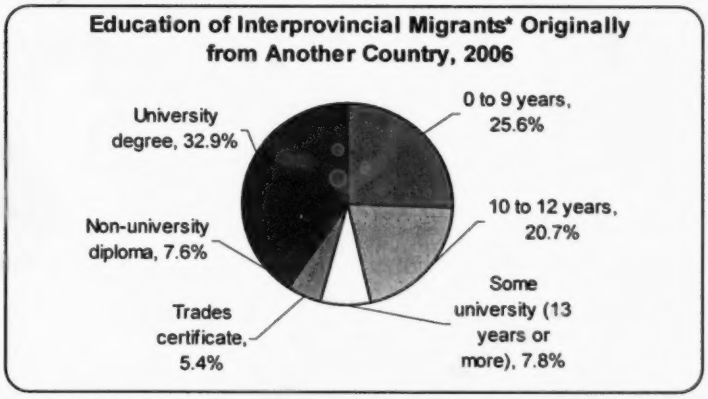
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan
BC = British Columbia
YK/NWT = Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut

Chart 1


Non-Movers' Education, 2006
University degree, 16.9%
Less than high school certificate, 24.1%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor's degree, 4.0%
High school certificate or equivalent, 25.9%
College certificate or diploma, 17.9%
Trades certificate or diploma, 11.1%

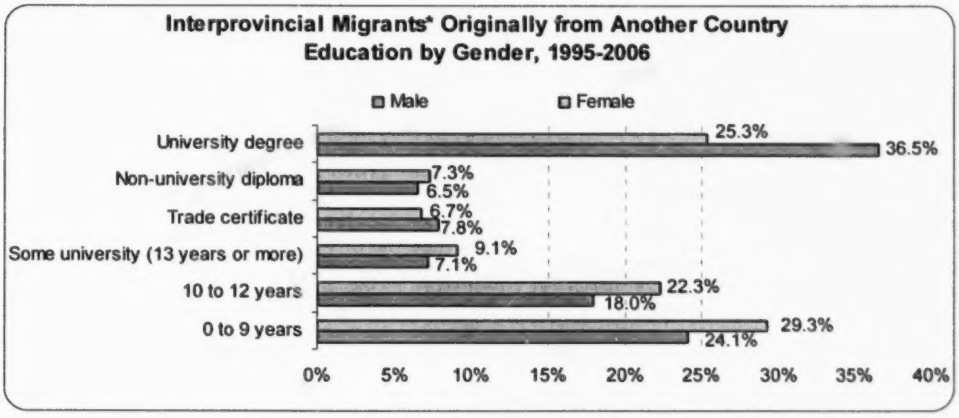
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 census

Chart 2


Education of Interprovincial Migrants* Originally from Another Country, 2006
University degree, 32.9%
0 to 9 years, 25.6%
10 to 12 years, 20.7%
Non-university diploma, 7.6%
Some university (13 years or more), 7.8%
Trades certificate, 5.4%

* May include a small number of migrants coming to Alberta directly from outside the country
Data Source: Longitudinal Administrative Database, 1995-2006

Chart 3



* May include a small number of migrants coming to Alberta directly from outside the country
Data Source: Longitudinal Administrative Database, 1995-2006

Appendix B

Table 1

Proportions in Educational Attainment Levels by Age Group, 2006							
		Education Level					
		Less than high school	High school certificate	Trade certificate	College certificate	University certificate	University degree
Total	Interprovincial	18.1%	28.2%	10.8%	17.0%	3.8%	22.1%
	External	14.3%	20.5%	4.0%	11.7%	7.6%	41.9%
15 - 19	Interprovincial	50.9%	41.5%	3.5%	3.5%	0.3%	0.3%
	External	57.1%	36.7%	0.6%	3.6%	1.4%	0.6%
20 - 24	Interprovincial	14.9%	41.9%	8.7%	16.3%	2.9%	15.3%
	External	10.1%	43.3%	4.1%	13.0%	6.1%	23.5%
25 - 29	Interprovincial	11.5%	24.8%	9.6%	18.9%	3.3%	31.8%
	External	8.4%	16.5%	3.6%	11.5%	7.9%	52.2%
30 - 34	Interprovincial	11.5%	18.3%	10.6%	20.6%	3.9%	35.0%
	External	5.0%	10.1%	3.8%	12.7%	7.2%	61.1%
35 - 39	Interprovincial	11.4%	21.4%	11.1%	21.2%	4.8%	30.2%
	External	4.6%	10.1%	4.2%	14.1%	8.8%	58.5%
40 - 44	Interprovincial	13.9%	21.2%	14.6%	18.6%	5.7%	26.1%
	External	7.0%	12.5%	4.9%	12.9%	13.3%	49.2%
45 - 49	Interprovincial	16.5%	22.8%	17.0%	20.1%	5.1%	18.5%
	External	7.0%	18.0%	5.8%	12.5%	10.4%	46.2%
50 - 54	Interprovincial	18.7%	20.6%	15.2%	20.4%	4.3%	20.7%
	External	18.3%	15.1%	5.4%	9.7%	8.6%	43.0%
55 - 59	Interprovincial	18.9%	22.8%	16.7%	13.7%	7.8%	20.0%
	External	22.0%	13.8%	5.0%	17.0%	4.4%	37.1%
60 - 64	Interprovincial	21.5%	23.1%	15.4%	14.8%	8.0%	17.0%
	External	37.0%	16.0%	9.0%	9.0%	6.0%	23.0%
65+	Interprovincial	33.2%	21.7%	13.9%	13.4%	4.9%	12.9%
	External	41.8%	15.2%	4.9%	7.6%	9.2%	21.2%
Sums may not equal to 100% due to rounding							

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006

Appendix B

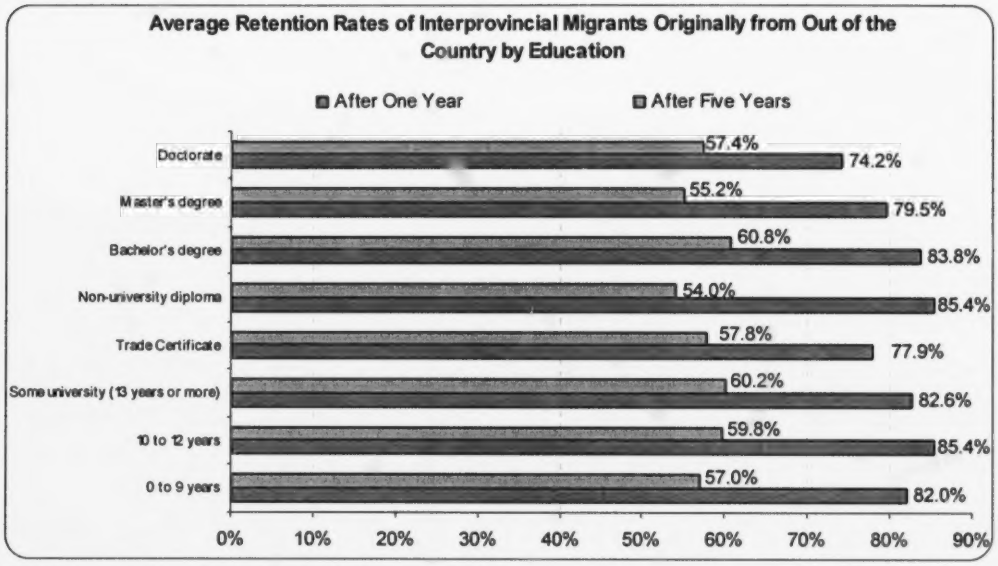
Table 2

Highest Level of Education of Interprovincial Migrants, 2006								
		Total	Less than high school	High school certificate	Trade certificate	College certificate	University certificate	University degree
Province	Newfoundland and Labrador	4480	1035	1340	625	920	110	455
	% of Total		23.1%	29.9%	14.0%	20.5%	2.5%	10.2%
	Prince Edward Island	525	105	120	45	175	10	75
	% of Total		20.0%	22.9%	8.6%	33.3%	1.9%	14.3%
	Nova Scotia	4710	780	1385	570	870	135	975
	% of Total		16.6%	29.4%	12.1%	18.5%	2.9%	20.7%
	New Brunswick	2945	495	955	360	475	105	555
	% of Total		16.8%	32.4%	12.2%	16.1%	3.6%	18.8%
	Quebec	3655	550	735	475	620	240	1030
	% of Total		15.0%	20.1%	13.0%	17.0%	6.6%	28.2%
	Ontario	18805	2880	4615	1515	3055	810	5930
	% of Total		15.3%	24.5%	8.1%	16.2%	4.3%	31.5%
	Manitoba	5805	1210	1700	570	895	240	1185
	% of Total		20.8%	29.3%	9.8%	15.4%	4.1%	20.4%
	Saskatchewan	10055	1990	3250	1080	1575	270	1895
	% of Total		19.8%	32.3%	10.7%	15.7%	2.7%	18.8%
	British Columbia	19985	3850	6005	2360	3310	830	3625
	% of Total		19.3%	30.0%	11.8%	16.6%	4.2%	18.1%
	Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	1405	220	310	190	380	25	285
	% of Total		15.7%	22.1%	13.5%	27.0%	1.8%	20.3%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006

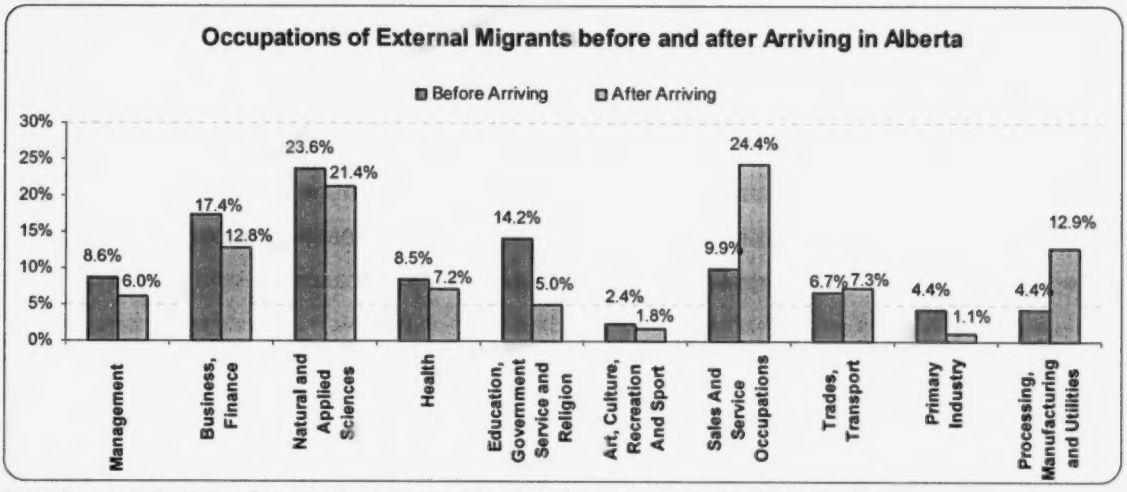
Appendix B

Chart 4



Data Source: Longitudinal Administrative Database

Chart 5



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2005